



## **I-17 widening officially beginning in 2008**

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**NORTH VALLEY** – The next phase of the I-17 widening is coming in 2008.

So far, the changes along the freeway have been noticeable, but they've actually only been connected to the new interchanges being added, said Tim Tait, Arizona Department of Transportation representative. The Jomax and

Dixileta interchanges are underway and have been for several months, and the Carefree Highway interchange is also undergoing major changes.

Now the widening is scheduled to officially begin. The project, which will add a new general-purpose lane and a carpool lane in each direction on I-17 from Loop 101 to Jomax Road, is expected to begin by early spring.

"The second project is Phase One of the widening, which is the Loop 101 to Jomax," added Tait. "Phase Two of the widening is Jomax to Carefree Highway, and Phase Three is Carefree Highway to Anthem Way."

On Jan.18, the project received a dose of funding from the State Transportation Board.

"The State Transportation Board awarded a contract for I-17 widening from Loop 101 to Jomax, then Jomax to Carefree Highway, noted Tait.

A second widening project, which will also add two lanes in each direction from Jomax Road to Carefree Highway, is expected to begin spring 2008. This project will include a new interchange at Lone Mountain Road, which will serve as a temporary connection between I-17 and Loop 303 when it is extended to I-17 in 2011. A separate project to construct a new interchange at Dove Valley Parkway is scheduled to begin fall 2008 to coincide with the widening project.

The two I-17 widening projects to Carefree Highway are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. A third widening project from Carefree Highway to Anthem Way, which will add a general-purpose lane in each direction, is scheduled to begin in 2009 and be completed in 2010.

This scheduled work is in addition to ongoing interchange projects on I-17 that are currently under construction, including new interchanges at Jomax Road and Dixileta Drive and reconstruction of the traffic interchange at Carefree Highway. These projects are on schedule to be completed in 2008.

The improvement projects on I-17 are included in the voter-approved Regional Transportation Plan, a comprehensive program of Valleywide transportation improvements through 2025.

As with the current projects, ADOT says it plans to keep two lanes of traffic open in each direction during peak travel periods and schedule any temporary freeway closures during overnight hours.

For general information about I-17 improvements, contact the I-17 project hotline at (480) 890-3055.